



## **Arlington Open Space Committee**

Date: October 26, 2023.

Time: 7:30 PM.

Location: Conducted by Remote Participation.

Present: Wendy Richter, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, David Morgan, Shirley Canniff, Eliza Hatch, Brian Kelder, David White.

Absent: Ann LeRoy, Brian McBride, Nelson Mui.

### **Minutes.**

1. Administrative.
  - a. Approval of September 28, 2023 meeting minutes.  
The draft September 28 minutes were approved by the committee.
  - b. 2024 Meetings.  
The 2024 meetings of the committee were set for: 1/25, 2/22, 3/28, 4/25, 5/23, 6/27, 7/25, 8/22, 9/26, 10/24, 11/14, 12/12.
  - c. FY24 Budget tracking.  
E. Carr-Jones reported that the committee's \$75 gray bill for the Town Day booth had been paid. D. Morgan reported there were no other expenses.
  - d. Other items.  
No other items were discussed.
2. Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) & CPA Implementation (Action Items).
  - a. OSRP Objectives – Implementation.  
D. Morgan reported positive feedback from Arlington Recreation regarding outdoor nature programs for parents and younger children. E. Hatch lamented the lack of informal, but planned weekend activities for toddlers in natural settings. S. Canniff recalled morning programs at Menotomy Rocks Park run through Arlington Recreation, adding that we would need to do the footwork to make them happen. She also brought up Arlington Community Education as an option, volunteering to speak to the Director on behalf of the committee. D. Morgan will supply a list of program ideas developed after the September meeting. An Ecology Summit was discussed in the timeframe of EcoFest in the spring.
  - b. CPA Projects.  
D. Morgan reported that the Planning Department had submitted preliminary applications for FY25 Community Preservation Act funding for



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expanding the Town's 2022 Public Land Management Plan and a McClennen Park detention ponds survey. Both were approved by the CPA Committee to submit final applications.

The Orchard Signage project is scheduled to begin in January when, D. Morgan announced he will be off on paternity leave. The committee discussed engaging the local arts community through the Arlington Commission on Arts and Culture for the design work early. D. Morgan will reach out to the commission and the town's Public Information Officer to open the conversation. An in-person workshop will follow in February.

- c. Urban Ecology Framework application – EcoFest planning.  
D. Morgan reported that he will prepare a presentation on the Urban Ecology framework he has been developing for the November 9 meeting. The Tufts professor he has been working with will be invited to participate.
- d. Other Items.  
No other items were discussed.

### **3. Updates from Liaisons.**

- a. Department of Planning and Community Development.  
D. Morgan reported that Arlington's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) 2.0 Climate Change Initiative Pilot will kick-off in November. The initial process is proscribed by the state and will take 6-8 months, followed by a community-led final project.  
  
D. Morgan reported that he applied for a Mass Cultural Council grant to address the problem of personal vehicle idling through artwork and social practice in Arlington, based on a creative campaign conducted in London.  
  
D. Morgan reported that the department is also working to rezone the town's open spaces that remain listed as residential. The process will require waivers and consultation with state and local entities.
- b. Park and Recreation Commission.  
S. Canniff reported that the Robbins Farm Park playground construction is underway, and the commission recently held well-attended on-site public input meetings for the playground projects at Parallel and Menotomy Rocks Parks, with surveys on both to follow.  
  
S. Canniff reported that the tree survey for the Hill's Hill mountain biking project is complete, the design group has met twice, and a public meeting



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is scheduled for November 15. The commission has submitted preliminary CPA applications for Menotomy Rocks Park and Crosby School Park.

c. Conservation Commission.

D. Morgan and D. White reported that there was a meeting with the consultant that morning on the Mt. Gilboa project. An on-site public input meeting will be scheduled before winter, followed by a public meeting at one of the elementary schools, probably Peirce.

D. Morgan reported that Arlington 360 would be contacting abutters about encroachment at Symmes Woods, as well as meeting other obligations.

d. Department of Public Works.

There was no update this month.

e. Envision Arlington.

E. Carr-Jones reported that Envision Arlington sent the full 2023 survey report, but the open space portion was the same as the preliminary report. S. Canniff volunteered to contact the committee if the Park and Recreation Commission would like to consult on any questions for the 2024 survey.

f. Arlington Redevelopment Board.

See item 4a.

g. Other Committees.

D. White reported that the Massachusetts Rivers Alliance, Charles River Watershed Association, Mystic River Watershed Association, and Save the Alewife Brook held a virtual briefing to coordinate on combined sewage overflow projects, and community support was harnessed for a hearing on House Bill 886 An Act relative to combined sewer overflows. Alewife Sewage Pollution Control Public Meeting #3 will be held virtually on November 15.

4. Updates/Discussion (Tracking).

a. Special Town Meeting zoning articles – MBTA Communities.

W. Richter reported that Special Town Meeting concluded with all zoning Warrant Articles passing, including MBTA Communities.

b. Artificial Turf.

Nothing new was reported.

c. CPA FY23 Updates.



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D. Morgan reported that final design concepts have been received from Hatch on the Cooke's Hollow project, with an on-site celebration planned for November 9.

d. CPA FY24 Updates.

D. Morgan reported that the Mill Brook and No Name Brook projects will kick off soon and survey data is being collected for the Invasives project. Pond Lane will also kickoff soon, with Home Harvest working on public engagement ideas.

e. 40B Comprehensive Permit Projects.

D. Morgan reported that the 1021 Mass Ave project remains on hold.

f. Other Items.

S. Canniff reported that the Poet's Corner property owned by the Archdiocese was on the market for sale.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02PM.

2023-24 Meetings.

(4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays except Nov. and Dec.): November 9, December 14, January 25, February 22, March 28, April 25, May 23, June 27.